

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 604
By McKee

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Thomas and Betts Corporation of Athens, Tennessee, on receiving the Tennessee Quality Achievement Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this legislative body should honor those model Tennessee industries that have successfully produced quality products at a reasonable price; and

WHEREAS, such advanced corporations provide powerful examples of excellence, quality and productivity for other businesses to emulate; and

WHEREAS, Thomas and Betts, of Athens, Tennessee, which recently received the prestigious Tennessee Quality Achievement Award, is one such exemplary company; and

WHEREAS, Thomas and Betts was started in 1898, when Robert McKean Thomas and Hobart D. Betts formed a sales agency, and sold conduit for electrical installations in New York City; and

WHEREAS, in 1912, the company purchased the Standard Electrical Fittings Company of Stamford, Connecticut and five years later in 1917, a corporation with the new name of Thomas and Betts Company was formed. With this important move, sales and manufacturing operations were consolidated in Elizabeth, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the company has continued to grow and for several decades has doubled its sales and earnings approximately every seven years. This phenomenal growth has been

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achieved through product and markets diversification, acquisition, and the establishment of a substantial international presence; and

WHEREAS, the name of the company was changed to Thomas and Betts Corporation in 1968; and

WHEREAS, following the 1992 acquisition of American Electric, the corporate company headquarters was relocated to Memphis, Tennessee, in 1993; in 1996 the company reincorporated in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, today, the company is a leading producer of connectors and components for worldwide electrical and electronics markets. The corporation produces its excellent products, with manufacturing facilities throughout North America, Europe and the Far East. Distribution Centers are located in Byhalia, Mississippi; Bromont, Quebec; Sparks, Nevada and LaLouviere, Belgium; and

WHEREAS, the Athens, Tennessee facility of Thomas and Betts was originally a part of Midland Ross, relocating to Tennessee from Pittsburgh in 1965; and

WHEREAS, from the beginning, the Athens plant has been a major contributor to area civic groups and charities; company management and general employees serve admirably in a wide variety of positions of civic leadership, including meritorious service as directors and board members of Junior Achievement and the United Way; and

WHEREAS, the company is also an Adopt-A-School partner with Rogers Creek Elementary School and contributes to many non-profit organizations in the community, including Habitat for the Humanity; and

WHEREAS, the Athens facility of Thomas and Betts Corporation employs 556 enthusiastic and capable people from local and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the company's Associates take great pride in manufacturing top quality steel electrical outlet boxes and covers and a variety of plastic items used in the electrical industry; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize and honor Thomas and Betts of Athens for their dedication to quality products and production processes; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend the Thomas and Betts Corporation of Athens, Tennessee, expressing our deepest appreciation for their many contributions to Tennessee's manufacturing industry and economy and to their community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a duly inscribed copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final resolving clause deleted.